

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 02031 190209Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00 CIAE-00
INRE-00 DODE-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 236

S E C R E T BOGOTA 2031

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y -(E.O. LINE TO READ GDS VICE XGDS)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, CASC, CO
SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF PC VOLUNTEER

REF: BOGOTA 1918

1. POLITICAL COUNSELOR WAS CALLED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AFTERNOON
MARCH 2 TO MEET WITH SECRETARY GENERAL BORDA, NUMBER TWO OFFICIAL
IN THE MINISTRY. BORDA HANDED COUNSELOR MEMORANDUM WHICH REFERRED
TO AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH POL COUNSELOR HAD DELIVERED EARLIER (REFTEL)
INCORPORATING THOSE PORTIONS OF STATE 043233 WHICH WE WERE INSTRUCTED

CONVEY TO GOC. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF MINISTRY'S MEMO:
QUOTE WITH REFERENCE TO THE EMBASSY'S AIDE MEMOIRE OF FEB 28, THE
MINISTRY WISHES TO STATE THAT ITS TERMS ARE COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE.
THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA AS A SOVEREIGN NATION CANNOT ALLOW ITSELF
TO BE TOLD HOW IT SHOULD HANDLE CASES LIKE THAT OF MR. STARR, WHICH
UNFORTUNATELY ARE OF UNIVERSAL OCCURENCE. THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA
WILL ADHERE EXCLUSIVELY TO ITS CONSTITUTIONAL NORMS AND TO THE
LAWS OF THE REPUBLIC. BECAUSE OF ITS UNACCEPTABILITY, THE EMBASSY'S
AIDE MEMOIRE IS BEING RETURNED TO THE EMBASSY. END QUOTE.

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2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF THE AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH POL COUNSELOR
HAD DELIVERED EARLIER: QUOTE THE EMBASSY OF THE US TAKES THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY
OF ALL AMERICAN CITIZENS WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION. IN LINE WITH THIS
POLICY, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS INSTRUCTED THE EMBASSY TO INFORM
THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA THAT ANY RANSOM OR OTHER DEMANDS THAT ARE

RECEIVED BY THE EMBASSY OR THE PEACE CORPS WILL BE TURNED OVER TO THE

GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE THIS
POLICY KNOWN TO THE KIDNAPPERS AS WELL. END QUOTE.

3. IN HANDING OVER THE MINISTRY'S MEMO, BORDA (WHO SEEMED EMBARRASSED
)

EXPLAINED THAT THE REFERENCE TO THE COLOMBIAN CONSTITUTION
WAS TO BE TAKEN AS AN INDICATION THAT THE GOC ACCEPTED OUR THESIS THA
T

IT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY OF FOREIGNERS IN COLOMBIA.
HE ADDED THAT THE GOC WILL NOT PAY RANSOM OR NEGOTIATE WITH
THE KIDNAPPERS AND THAT INSTEAD IT INTENDS TO "RESCUE" STARR
THROUGH THE ACTIONS OF THE MILITARY AND POLICE AUTHORITIES.
BORDA ALSO INDICATED THAT THE TEXT OF THE MINISTRY'S
NOTE HAD BEN SEEN AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE BEFORE IT WAS GIVEN US.
SANCHEZ

SECRET

NNN

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